(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any person has been held responsible in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Railway Hospitals

1062. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway hospitals opened during each of the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the details of the Railway hospitals under construction at present, location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these hospitals are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) One each at Nishatpura and Amla on Central Railway and one at Tinsukia on Northeast Frontier Railway.

(b) One at Pune, One at Ambala Cantt and one at Sambhalpur on Central, Northern and South Eastern Railways respectively.

(c) At Pune in 1997-98, at Ambala Cantt by April' 97 and at Sambhalpur by April' 98.

Pension Scheme

1063. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Provident Fund Subscribers opted for under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 as on date;

(b) the number of persons benefited under the said scheme as on date;

(c) the number of applications seeking pension after superannuation/retirement under the said scheme are pending with the concerned authorities as on date; and

(d) the plans initiated by the concerned authorities to disburse the pension?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 was enforced w.e.f. 16.11.1995. The scheme is compulsory for all the employees who have been members of the ceased Family Pension Scheme, 1971. It is also compulsory for the persons who became members of the Provident Fund on or after 16.11.95. As on 14.2.97, pension under the new scheme has been disbursed among 1,09,209 beneficiaries.

(c) 15,684 (As on 31.12.96).

(d) In order to ensure disbursement of pension on regular basis, necessary agreement has been made by the EPF Organisation with the nationalised banks. A massive computerisation programme has also been launched for providing prompt service to the EPF subscribers.

Survey Report of Angamaly-Muvattupuzha-Sabarimala Rail Line

1064. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of survey of Angamaly-Muvattupuzha-Erumely-Sabarimala railway line has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work has been included in the Budget 97-98 to be taken up after obtaining the necessary clearances.

Investment of Provident Fund

1065. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow investment of provident fund money in selected private sector bonds and debentures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard and have also consulted the Central Trade Unions regarding this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Air Crashes

1066. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air crashes taken place during this year, so far;

(b) the number of persons killed therein;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the family members of the deceased;

(d) the value of property lost therein; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid reccurrence of such crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During 1997 (till date) there has been one accident of Indian Civil registered aircraft belonging